

Contact: Shannon O'Brien 202-225-2671

Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, sitting on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

□ (WASHINGTON, DC) -- After working to pass several water quality bills out of the Transportation Committee, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted to pass these bills through the full House this week.. The new Democratic Congress has quickly worked to make clean water a priority, passing three critical water quality bills which will help ensure clean water, create jobs, and stimulate economic development in local communities.

H.R. 700, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act, reauthorizes a pilot program for increasing usable water supply. The bill authorizes \$125 million for Environmental Protection Agency grants for alternative water source projects.

H.R. 569, the Water Quality Investment Act, authorizes \$1.8 billion over five years for repairing and replacing outmoded sewer systems that carry both domestic sewage and industrial wastewater, also known as combined sewer overflow (CSO). President Bush's 2008 Budget failed to provide money for CSO repair in St. Louis City.

St. Louis, Missouri, a part of Carnahan's district, has one of the oldest wastewater infrastructure systems in the nation - some dating back to the Civil War. The crumbling and over-used sewer systems are an environmental and economic burden, and they frequently threaten the health of the Mississippi River, one of our nation's treasures.

Carnahan said, ***"Federal funds are currently enabling the Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to carry out vital improvements in this area. I am determined fight the President's funding cuts to ensure these projects receive the necessary federal funding."***

H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act, is a top priority of the Democratic-led Congress, and authorizes \$14 billion over four years for wastewater infrastructure improvements, including almost \$400 million over 4 years for use in Missouri. Carnahan is a cosponsor of this legislation which continues the use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This bill is especially important because the President's 2008 budget proposes nearly \$11 million in cuts to Missouri's Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The Clean Water Fund is important as it ensures clean water and fosters economic development in local communities by helping pay for building and improving wastewater treatment facilities.

"For good reason, this new Congress has made clean water a top priority," Carnahan said. "H.R. 720 will have a tremendous impact on our environment and local communities. Furthermore, the bill ensures that prevailing wages are paid as set forth by the Davis-Bacon Act."